GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4686
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002
FILM ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are very few feature films produced on social issues;

(b) if so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to an outstanding brilliant production entitled ` Swaraj the Little Republic` centered around the legend of martyrdom of Prophet Hussain and showing the misdeeds of Panchayati Raj and High caste men against women who, rose to succeed in getting water for their village against all odds with help from the Rajasthan administration;

(c) if so, whether the film also raises hope for law and justice arising from the determined four women who fought for empowerment of women against all odds;

(d) if so, whether the Government will organise full support for such films and ensure their productions and screening over DD, etc.;and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): Production of films in India is in the private sector and no statistics are maintained bythe Government in this regard. However, according to information received from Central Board of Film Certification, the statistical data for the last three years of films classified as `social` indicates that production of such films is on the increase:

1999 - 593
2000 – 702
2001 – 816

Further, Films Division and National Film Development Corporation Ltd. which areorganisations attached with this Ministry also produce films, documentaries etc. on social issues and empowerment of women.

(b) to (e): `Swaraj` (The Little Republic) was cleared by the CBFC in May 2002 with a `Ucertificate. The film was selected under Indian Panorama 2002 and was screened during the International Film Festival of India at New Delhi. Further, Directorate of Film Festivals under this Ministry arranged for its participation in Montreal International Film Festival, Sao PauloInternational Film Festival, Cairo International Film Festival, Kolkata Film Festival, Mumbai Film Festival, Pune Film Festival. The film has also been invited to the Munich International Film Festival, Friburg International Film Festival and Palm Spring International Film Festival.

The film was also screened for Members of Parliament and others in Delhi on10.12.2002. As regards showing the film on Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati being anautonomous body, the producer is free to show his film on the channel in accordance with procedures laid down by Prasar Bharati.

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(c) if so, whether the film also raises hope for law and justice arising from the determined four women who fought for empowerment of women against all odds;

(d) if so, whether the Government will organise full support for such films and ensure their productions and screening over DD, etc.; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
FIPSU Desk
Subject: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4686 regarding ` Film on Empowerment of Women` for answer on 19.12.2002.
The admitted version of the above-mentioned Question may kindly be seen at p35/c.

In order to frame a reply to the question we had called for information from NFDC, CBFC,FD and DFF. From CBFC`s reply it may b seen that production of films classified as `social` is not low but rather it has been increasing over the last three years. NFDC` s and FD`s reply show that the number of films being produced on social issues and on the subject of `empowerment of women` is also substantial. As regards the film ` Swaraj (The Little Republic` it has been indicated that same has been certified in May 2002 and from DFF`s reply it is seen that the film was a part of the IndianPanorama in IFFI 2002. DFF has also facilitated its entry to several international and national film festivals. As regards showing the film on Doordarshan it may be mentioned that Prasar Bharati is an autonomous body and the producer may approach the channel for showing the film as per procedure laid down for the purpose.

In accordance with the information received in connection with the Question, a draft reply has been attempted and is placed on file for consideration please.

(Mary Jacob)
Desk Officer
16.12.2002
DS (Films)